

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 22, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 163

**Introduced by Assembly Members Cook, Pan, Butler, and
John A. Pérez**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Atkins, Bill Berryhill, Block, Bonilla, Donnelly, Gordon, Gorell, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Jeffries, Logue, Miller, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Solorio, Williams, and Yamada Yamada, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Beall, Blumenfield, Bradford, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Campos, Chesbro, Conway, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Gatto, Grove, Hayashi, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jones, Knight, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Mitchell, Morrell, Olsen, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, and Wieckowski)

(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Blakeslee, Cannella, DeSaulnier, Dutton, Evans, Fuller, Gaines, Harman, Lieu, Pavley, Rubio, Runner, Strickland, and Wolk)

June 25, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163—Relative to the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, as amended, Cook. California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This measure would recognize the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial on November 23, 2013, and encourage all Californians to take part in ceremonies, organized by the California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America along with assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans service organizations. This measure would call upon the state archives to display memorabilia in a special display on the Vietnam War, as provided, the California State Military Museum to prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam War, as provided, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to add names to the memorial, as provided.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California has the largest United States veterans'
2 population in the nation, comprised of approximately 2 million
3 armed services veterans, which is 12.3 percent of the nationwide
4 veteran population of nearly 25 million veterans, who represent
5 approximately one-fifth of California's total population; and
6 WHEREAS, More than 350,000 California veterans served in
7 Vietnam, resulting in 5,822 of them being killed or missing in
8 action, which comprised more than 10 percent of the nation's total,
9 and 40,000 of them being wounded; and
10 WHEREAS, More California residents died in Vietnam than
11 residents of any other state and California veterans received more
12 Medals of Honor, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts than veterans
13 of any other state; and
14 WHEREAS, The history of the California Vietnam Veterans
15 Memorial began when Herman Woods, a double amputee who
16 served in the 1st Air Cavalry Division, United States Army (1970),
17 returned to California from the dedication of the National Vietnam
18 Veterans Memorial in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. in
19 1982; and
20 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd subsequently
21 held a rally on the steps of the State Capitol, and over 800 people
22 attended; he was convinced that construction of the California
23 Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the will of California Vietnam
24 veterans; and
25 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd introduced
26 Assembly Bill 650, which created the California Vietnam Veterans
27 Memorial in Capitol Park, that was signed into law by Governor
28 Deukmejian in September 1983; and

1 WHEREAS, The newly formed Vietnam Veterans Memorial
2 Commission was comprised of nine veterans, eight of whom served
3 in Vietnam, including Linda J. McClenahan, Chairperson, Leo K.
4 Thorsness, Medal of Honor recipient and Vice Chairperson, and
5 members Gregory C. Green, Treasurer, Abel A. Cota, Secretary,
6 B.T. Collins, Don A. Drumheller, Jesse G. Ugalde, Senator Jim
7 Ellis, Assembly Member Richard E. Floyd, member and author
8 of Assembly Bill 650, and Jerri L. Dale, Executive Officer, which
9 led to the creation of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is
12 located in the northeast section of the Capitol Park grounds of the
13 State Capitol and is a standing tribute to the 5,822 servicemen and
14 servicewomen killed and missing in action; and

15 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was
16 dedicated on December 10, 1988, in Capitol Park; and there were
17 thousands in attendance at the dedication ceremonies where
18 Brigadier General George B. Price was the keynote speaker at the
19 dedication; and the dedication events were spread out over a
20 two-day period, commencing with “Buddy Search” registrations,
21 unit reunions, open houses, and concluding with the dedication
22 ceremony in Capitol Park; and

23 WHEREAS, The theme of the memorial reflects the
24 overwhelming majority of those who were killed in Vietnam,
25 including 19-year-old infantry soldiers, their youth, camaraderie,
26 the fatigue of the war, and the American women who served, with
27 the winning entry in the opening design competition awarded to
28 Michael Larson, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and Thomas
29 Chytrowski; and

30 WHEREAS, B.T. Collins and Stan Atkinson, who had traveled
31 to Vietnam together after the war, undertook the mission of raising
32 the necessary funds to complete the memorial; and

33 WHEREAS, The California State Council of Vietnam Veterans
34 of America will be the organizer of this event as they were for the
35 2008 20th anniversary event; and

36 WHEREAS, all California components of veterans service
37 organizations will be participating in this historic event; now,
38 therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby commemorates

1 2013 as the 25-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans
2 Memorial, encourages all Californians to take part in the
3 ceremonies commemorating the 25-year anniversary, to be held
4 on November 23, 2013, including opening ceremonies; and be it
5 further

6 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges that all steps necessary to
7 inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and
8 locations of these events be taken so that all Californians may have
9 the opportunity to remember and honor the service, efforts, and
10 sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, and to pay homage to those veterans
11 who are still alive; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide
13 assistance to the organizers of the 25th anniversary commemoration
14 event in promoting and conducting this historic event; and be it
15 further

16 *Resolved*, That the state archives display memorabilia that have
17 been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, since the memorial
18 was dedicated, and that are currently deposited in the state archives,
19 in a special display for 2013 on the Vietnam War; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the California State Military Museum shall
21 prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam War at the Department
22 of Veterans Affairs and at the State Capitol; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That all state agencies shall promote the memorial
24 event and honor men and women who are Vietnam War veterans;
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs should
27 establish a task force to compile a list of California servicemen
28 and servicewomen whose names may not be currently listed on
29 the memorial so that they can be added to the memorial; and be it
30 further

31 *Resolved*, That names should be added to the memorial of
32 California Vietnam veterans whose passing since their service in
33 Vietnam can reasonably be attributed to their wartime service,
34 based upon recommendations from interested parties; and be it
35 further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the Governor to issue
37 a proclamation on November 23, 2013, commemorating the 25th
38 anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and be
39 it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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5 CORRECTIONS:

6 Heading—Coauthors—Page 1.

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